



PO Box 129, Mountainair, NM 87036 Ph: 505-847-2243 Fax: 505-847-0615

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 4, 2016**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer
Cody Stropki, SWCA
Jim Wanstall, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, at the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from October 7, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. On page 3, delete the apostrophe from "Romero's." On page 5 under OTHER, replace the text with the following: "Mr. Shovelin reported on the NMDA Operations meeting that he and the chairman attended. He pointed out that a first draft of meeting minutes should be available for public inspection on the district website within 10 working days after a board meeting. The minutes must be clearly labeled as a draft subject to approval by the board at its next meeting. The chairman stated that the district manager does her best to keep the district in compliance with all state regulations."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of October, 2016 with accounts payable for November, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for October, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for November, 2016. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The district manager expressed her appreciation to Vern Kohler for helping her to complete the treasurer's report.

Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report. His report provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the district's auditor was in the office for three days to go over what she provided for his review. He may have his draft report ready after Nov. 15. The report is due December 15. She doesn't expect any issues with the audit.

The district manager reported that the Financial Committee hasn't met yet to discuss possible services that the district could charge for and at the same time help land owners.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's report is included in board members' packets. He pointed out a number of items of interest:

2. 2016 Quivira Coalition -- The Quivira Coalition will hold its 2016 conference November 9 – 11 in Albuquerque. Mr. Wanstall explained what the coalition is and what it does. The district belongs to this organization.
4. Pesticide Applicators Workshops – The closest workshop will be held on November 30 at the Isleta Resort and Casino Golf Course.
5. NM Vegetation Mgmt. Asso. Annual Conference – This conference will be held on November 16 – 17 at the Route 66 Casino Hotel.
6. 2016 Joint Stockmen's Convention – The convention will be held December 1 – 4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque.
7. Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM – Mr. Wanstall reported on the work of various national forests.
8. The NM Sustainable Agriculture Conference – This meeting will be held on November 30 at the UNM Valencia Campus in Los Lunas.
10. 2017 Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature – This SWCD legislative day will take place on February 7, 2017.

Mr. Wanstall asked about the status of HB 143. The district manager said that Senator Smith will sponsor a bill that includes the mil levy issue again.

Mr. Gomez mentioned a presentation by Dr. Wince from the Department of Agriculture on beef quality assurance to be held at the NMDA station in Los Lunas. The district manager will forward any information that she receives.

Mr. Wanstall said the noxious weed list has been updated and is on the NMDA website. Aquatic species have been added. The noxious weed book is being updated and will be available in the spring.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's report was distributed to board members. April Luna attended the meeting in his place to answer questions. She noted that Mr. Bishop has accepted an NRCS programs position in Oklahoma and will begin on November 14.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. She added that she had a good meeting with the BLM staff.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies.

Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA)

WTB:

EBWHRM:

The district manager said that the EBWHRM core steering committee met the previous Tuesday. Although a quorum wasn't present, several things were discussed. For example, the group is going to wait for a month before it signs contracts while waiting for a work plan from State Forestry. Lawrence Crane is working on moving the plan along. The mandate from the WTB requires that 70% of the \$600,000 has to be spent by September of 2016, so some contracts need to be started. The district manager described an issue that the East Torrance SWCD has with charging land owners technical fees.

The next meeting will be held in December on the first Tuesday of the month.

Codi Stropki attended the WTB meeting on Thursday with the district manager, who gave a presentation on the two proposals that were submitted on October 6. The requests for a waiver that were submitted with the proposals were approved at the meeting. Contracts in the amount of \$635,000 have been contracted and should be drawn down by February. Another \$133,000 will be contracted, too. If these funds can be spent by February 15, the 2015 funds and most of the 2016 funds will be spent.

GRGWA:

Two projects have been completed. A third project will be completed late next week on the San Cristobal ranch. State Representative McQueen will be given a tour of the project.

State Forestry:

The district manager said that the work plan is in the State Forestry legal department. When she receives the notice to proceed, contracting for 2016 for both the EBWHRM and the State Forestry funds will take place.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager praised district crew member Manuel Lopez for the amount of work that he is accomplishing.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The district manager said that contracts with SWCA will go forward soon, and field work can be started.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The participating agreement that lasted for five years beginning in 2011 is complete and funds have been expended as of September 30.

Rehab Project for the Dog Head Fire Area:

The district manager said that this project is complete.

Zuni Project:

The district manager said that Alamo Navajo Natural Resource Department and Ramah Natural Resource Department have completed their work satisfactorily on time, so she is very proud of that project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager is still waiting for a notice to proceed on the \$500,000 from NRCS. An application was submitted for the 2017 funding. Notification on whether the grant was funded should be available sometime in December.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that she will use grant funding to do another 10-acre project on the Manzano State Park project.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager was told that FEMA and Homeland Security had a significant amount of money, so she submitted a proposal for hazardous fuel removal in the northern part of Torrance County. She explained the decision making process. She also described the Forest Service's recent prescribed burn. The chairman described a controversy about thinning that occurred at a meeting he attended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager said that she filled out the severance bond tax questionnaire and submitted it. The district manager credits Senator Barela and Representative McQueen with saving the district's 2016 funds. However, whether enough bonds can be sold in the December sale to cover capital outlay funds is in question.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:

The district manager said that 600 comments were submitted and some of those are still being reviewed. She said that it may be June 2017 before the next draft is available. A meeting is planned for November 10 at the district conference room with Elaine Kohrman, Senator Barela and Representative McQueen to discuss the Dog Head Fire. Chairman Lovato may attend.

75th anniversary of CPSWCD – November 10, 2016:

The chairman reminded the board members of the annual meeting's date and time. He asked board members to arrive early to talk with attendees.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she is still working on the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 09 -- 2017 – Open Meetings Resolution:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 07 -- 2017. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams – yea; William Caster – yea..

Approval of 2017 Meetings Dates:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the 2017 board meeting dates. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Mexican Gray Wolf Issues:

The district manager asked whether the board members wanted this item on next month's agenda. Since the decision has probably been made, further discussion won't be necessary.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said the NMCCD was represented at NMSU – NMDA Ag Day on October 22 in Las Cruces. The district manager reported on the event.

South Central RC&D:

The chairman reported that South Central's meeting was cancelled.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The EBWPC meeting was held on October 13. The district manager will start putting minutes of these meetings in board members' packets.

Rio Grande Water Fund:

The district manager reminded board members that the district was a signatory for the Rio Grande Water Fund. She reported that Debbie Hughes nominated herself for the board of this group. The Annual meeting for the signatories on the Rio Grande Water Fund will be on Thursday, November 10th at 1:00 p.m.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin asked what SAM.gov is. The district manager explained what it is, whose information is in it and what is involved in updating information. She said that she will help anyone to update information without charge.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Richard Shovelin said he attended the Edgewood SWCD annual meeting in October. LeRoy Candelaria also attended the meeting.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55, Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.